

COMMENTS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Final Office Action mailed on March 31, 2003 and is being filed pursuant to a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) as provided under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(d). At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claim 1 through 28 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 23. As such claims 1 through 28 remain pending. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of claims 1 through 28.

The Examiner has rejected each of independent claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 23 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of US Patent No. 6,292,478 (hereinafter, "Farris") and US Patent No. 6,512,768 (hereinafter, "Thomas"). In response, the Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 23 to indicate multiple connections can be transported by a network with a label. Support for the amendments being made to independent claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 23 may be found in the Applicant's specification from page 7, line 21 to page 8, line 20 where it is stated that (emphasis added):

As shown in Figure 2, each user requires a single link through network 100; and each link is individually mapped from point-to-point (e.g., each link is individually mapped from one user to another user).

The individual mapping creates several issues, including concentration of connection setup requests in the broadband infrastructure (e.g., broadband network 110), administrative lack of transparency,

required visibility of very small 64 kbit/s channels when compared to the multi-gigabit/s broadband network channels, and lack of transparency in routing topology. Moreover, one to one mapping requires that each 64 kbit/s channel to be *individually* handled to the segmentation and reassembly layer during processing; which increases the end-to-end delay penalty, and making echo compensation an issue.

Figure 3 illustrates network 100 including a set of IP-adjunct processors (IP-AP) 306a-306b connected to a set of voice CO's 304a-304b. Each IP-AP in set of IP-AP's 306a-306b has an associated IP address and communicates with devices in an IP+ATM network 302 using the IP routing protocol.

Set of IP-AP's 306a-306b tunnel the initial address messages using pre-established labels such that 64 kbits/s connections may be tunneled through IP+ATM network 302. The 64 kbits/s connections would be converted into packetized data and may be *packed along with other packetized data from other 64 kbit/s connections into ATM cells for transfer.* Once the 64 kbits/s connections have been packed into cells, the IP+ATM CO's in IP+ATM in IP+ATM network 302 simply has to handle them using standard MPLS.

After careful review of Farris and Thomas it appears to the Applicant that neither of these references disclose, teach or suggest that multiple connections may be transported with a label through a network. As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that each of independent claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 23 are patentable over the combination of Farris and Thomas. Therefore each of claims 1 through 28 are patentable over the combination of Farris and Thomas and the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of same.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Robert O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account Number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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